

**A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT
MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 2, 2026**

The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ



The term “Maundy” comes from the Latin “mandatum,” meaning command. We gather this night to remember the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Supper: “Love one another; as I have loved you, so you are to love one another.”

The word “Tenebrae” is Latin for “shadows.” The Last Supper led into deeper shadows. The night in which he offered his disciples the new command was also the night in which he was betrayed.

We come together in the shadows tonight to break bread and share the cup in remembrance of the Last Supper and those words of love. Then, as the lights are extinguished one by one, we hear again the story of the life given in love for us and all creation.

The disciples who shared this last meal with Jesus came from many backgrounds with many different hopes and expectations. Yet all were welcome at the table. That is true for us as well. All are welcome at this table.

The service concludes with the Tenebrae readings and has no benediction. After the last reading, the congregation says the Lord’s Prayer together. The service ends in total darkness with the Spiritual, “Were You There?” You are invited to leave as you choose.

WE GATHER

Gathering in Silence

Prelude *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland* Bach-Busoni

Words of Welcome and Breathing in God’s Gifts

Musical Call *Kyrie Eleison* (3x) Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie Eleison

Call to Worship from the *United Church of Christ Book of Worship* (congregation bold)

We have gathered in the presence of God our Creator, who sets before us the ways of life and death.

We have gathered in the presence of Jesus the Christ who calls us to accept the cost of discipleship that we might know its joy.

We have gathered in the presence of the Spirit, who sustains us in trial and rejoicing.

In our living and our dying, we belong to God, in the shadow of God’s wings, we sing in hope.

People of God, let that hope lead us through the journey of this night.

*Hymn 225 *It Was a Sad and Solemn Night* (1-4) Bourbon

WE PREPARE

Musical Call to Prayer *When Jesus Wept* William Billings/New England Psalm Singer

A Prayer of Preparation and Confession (unison)

**O God, you who are always more ready to hear than we are to pray,
and ready to give more than either we desire or deserve,
open our hearts to you this night,
that we might know the abundance of your love for us and all people.
Forgive that which we are afraid to name,
heal that which has been broken,
and guide us in the way of your peace. Amen.**

Time of Silent Prayer and the Assurance of God's Presence and Grace

Our Song of Hope 396 *Where Charity and Love Prevail* (1-2, 4) 9th c. hymn/Christian Love

WE ENGAGE

Remembering this Night

I Corinthians 11:23-25

For I [Paul] received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Musical Reflection

Ave Verum Corpus

W. A. Mozart

Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine,
vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine:
Cujus latus perforatum, Unde fluxit sanguine.
Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.

*Hail true body, born of the Virgin Mary.
Truly suffering, was sacrificed on the cross for all,
From whose pierced side flowed blood,
Be for us a foretaste in the final judgment.*

Remembering the Next Day

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Reflection

Called to Remember

Silence

A Time of Prayer

(After each petition is silent prayer, then the congregation responds with **Jesus, Remember Me** from Taizé.)



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Gracious God, who loves all and forgets none, we bring to you our prayers this night for all your people and all your creation.

For all whom we love, watch over, and remember;

silent prayer

Jesus remember me . . .

For all who, like Jesus, are broken in body, soul, or mind, from physical affliction or loneliness of heart;

silent prayer

Jesus remember me . . .



For all who, like the women and disciples around him, are troubled by the suffering of those whom they love;
silent prayer

Jesus remember me . . .

For all who, like Peter and Judas, are overshadowed with doubt and fear, may your light still guide them;
silent prayer

Jesus remember me . . .

For all who, like those whom Jesus sought to help, are oppressed by poverty or hatred, for all forgotten by us and this world, but remembered and held dear by you;
silent prayer

Jesus remember me . . .

For all the peoples and places of our world broken by illness and hunger, greed and war, may they know your healing power and our love and commitment;
silent prayer

Jesus remember me . . .

Hear all of our prayers, O God, spoken and unspoken. Help us remember that you are the One who listens and who hears, the One who loves all people and all creation, the One whose love even death could not destroy. May that remembrance give us courage for the journey ahead and the commitment to offer ourselves in love for others. Amen.

WE RECEIVE AND SHARE

The Sharing of Communion

The Words of Institution

The Invitation

Holy and precious is the gift of life. Death cannot defeat it. So we remember that Jesus, on the night before his own death, took bread and cup and gave it for his community.

Body of bread entrusted to us, may we be nourished.

May we share bread so the hungry might be fed.

Cup of life entrusted to us, may we be satisfied.

May we share the cup so the thirsty might be refreshed and renewed.

Jesus' memory entrusted to us, may we be moved to care.

May we share bread and cup so the world might know peace.

The Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of Bread and Cup

(All are welcome. As your section is called, please come down the designated aisle, receive the bread, then either dip it in the chalice or take a cup, and return to your seat by the next aisle. For a non-gluten wafer, please ask the server. Both the chalice and cups contain grape juice. Again, all persons, regardless of age or background, are welcome to share in this meal.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

God, we thank you that we are gifts, entrusted to share life;

that we are grace, entrusted to be gentle;

that we are hope, entrusted to face injustice;

that we are holy, entrusted to nurture souls;

that we are powerful, entrusted to love and to cherish.

For all these gifts, we thank you—and we dare to ask for yet more.

Give us the courage and strength to follow in the path of your Passion and peace.

Give us the faith to trust that this journey through the shadows of this night

leads to your new life of Easter dawn. Amen.

WE HEAR AGAIN THE STORY OF THE PASSION

As Told in Song 219

Journey to Gethsemane (1-3)

Redhead

The First Reading:

Betrayal

Matthew 26:14-16, 20-25

Silence

The Second Reading:	<i>Truly Denied, Truly Deserted</i>	Mark 14:26-31
Silence		
The Third Reading:	<i>Angels and Anguish, Sweat and Blood</i>	Luke 22:39-44
Silence		
Hymn 226	<i>O Sacred Head, Now Wounded</i>	Bernard of Clairvaux/Passion Chorale
The Fourth Reading:	<i>The Power of Fear, The Power of Healing</i>	Luke 22:47-53
Silence		
The Fifth Reading:	<i>Bitter Denial, Bitter Weeping</i>	Luke 22:54-62
Silence		
Solo	<i>Motherless Child</i>	African American
The Sixth Reading:	<i>Wanting to Please the Crowd</i>	Mark 15:1-15
Silence		
Piano Solo	<i>Passion Chorale</i>	Hans Leo Hassler/arr. Cindy Berry
The Seventh Reading:	<i>The Word Was God</i>	John 1:1-5, 14
Silence		

WE GO INTO THE NIGHT

The Lord's Prayer (*Please pray any version.*)

Silence

Solo

Were You There?

African American

Silence (*You are invited to leave the Sanctuary as you choose.*)



Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Pastor; Michelle Schumann, Director of Music and Pianist; Tyler Fries, Trumpet; Heather Lacy, Soloist; the Sanctuary Choir directed by André García-Nuthmann; Louise Cavatta, Liturgist; Tenebrae Readers Steve Hamilton, Sasha Smucker, Dana Bender, Jack Smucker, Jenna Rode, Chris Zappe, and Weston Puglisi; the Sacred Space Team; and Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez.

The art is from a Christian community in Cameroon; a Ukrainian Orthodox Vigil; and Sri Lankan Painter Nalini Jayasuriya.



We invite you to join in the **Remembrance of Good Friday** tomorrow at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. The service is preceded by our annual Good Friday Creation Care cleanup. To help prepare the church grounds for Easter, come any time between 9:30 to 11:30. The sanctuary will also be open for private prayer from 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

Again, thank you for being here tonight.